



GREETINGS...

Welcome to the first edition of Turning Point’s quarterly newsletter. We hope you are surviving the pandemic and doing well during these challenging times. We continue to plan for future events, updates and will keep you informed of our next raffle fundraiser. We look forward to hearing from you with special news and success stories that we can share with our community.



**Meet Our President
 Sylvia Johnson**

Born and raised in London, England, Sylvia traveled to The United States and pursued her dream of becoming a fashion designer and graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. With a successful career behind her and the growth of a new heart, her daughter, the well-being and development of children became paramount in her life, and slowly gave rise to the development of Turning Point. Sylvia’s special interests include art, sketching and drawing.



**Spotlight on
 Aytia Tarpley**



May 2021

Our Mission: To guide and empower our most vulnerable young adults to a life of independence and security.

Our Vision: To create a path in which all young adults are prepared for self-reliance and a successful transition to independence.

Our Goals: Turning Point is investing in and steadily improving the lives of marginalized young adults of Broward County. We are meeting their needs by closing the gaps in economics, home economics and education with pragmatic programs. Steadily we reduce the persistent inequalities they face and empower them to be fully contributing members of society. We serve Broward County at risk young adults ages 18-24.

Resilient and spirit-filled is how **Aytia** describes herself. A true success story, and a former foster youth, Aytia Tarpley graduated from Sheraton Technical with certification in medical and legal studies. She is a Life Coach who has turned her time alone during the pandemic into a time for reflection and growth as a Social Worker. “It is important to focus on the positive or you will become the negative. I have learned to walk against the wind.” Aytia considers herself to be “a little goofy” so she looks for friends who are kind, love to smile, and are lighthearted. Aytia looks to the future and her work in clinical therapy and growing her organization, Christen Resilience. In her spare time, she enjoys singing, exercising and spending time with the people she loves.

Our Board of Directors constantly assess current and proposed projects to ensure they serve the organization's mission and are setting the organization up for success.

Meet our Board Members



Rorey Wanliss has been actively involved as an advisor, volunteer and role model with Turning Point since it's inception. Rorey is a real estate site Development Manger for cell phone companies. He is a former track and field star earning a sports scholarship to the University of Idaho. He also enjoys cooking for his wife of 29 years and his children.



Serena Thompson has been a strong supporter of Turning Point on every level since 2016. She exudes a passion for helping young people find direction and purpose in their lives. Serena recently celebrated her 1st year anniversary as a board member.



Dolores Ott is the producer and publisher of the Manual for Florida Legal Secretaries. With years of experience in the legal field, Dolores has worked as a legal secretary and paralegal. She was also an instructor for Legal Secretaria IProcedures in the Broward County adult education.



Suhail Ruano is a National Program Director with a working history in the non-profit sector. She has led nationwide initiatives such as developing educational programs for diverse populations and has worked with at risk populations in foster care and adoption. Suhail is a proud alumni of Florida State University.



Barbara Gobbi Marketing, helps small business owners to launch and grow their brands. Barbara is actively involved in Rotary International, doing local and international service projects. Barbara lives in Coral Springs with her husband Victor and they have 4 kids.

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May is National Foster Care Month

Teens leaving foster care face many challenges. They deserve our support while they transition to independence and adulthood. We offer pragmatic solutions to closing the gaps in education through the following programs:

- Financial Literacy 101
- Parenting
- Employment Readiness
- Cooking and Nutrition
- Sexual Health Education
- Driver's Education



INDEPENDENCE DRIVE is our highlighted program. The program offers eligible youth an opportunity to gain a Florida Driver's License. Drivers education is often a forgotten milestone in the life of a youth in foster care. This program offers a personal touch, and guides and encourages youth through the process of obtaining a driver's license at no cost to the applicant. It is supported by the Broward Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Trust Fund Program.



*Thank you,
We couldn't do it without you!*



Rima Xiques
Editor

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